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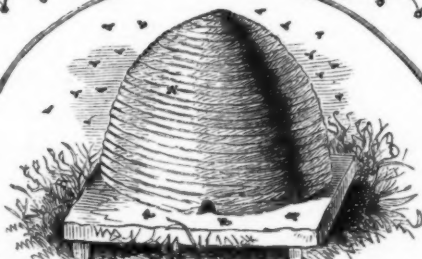
DECEMBER, 1875.



THE

AMERICAN

BEE JOURNAL



A MONTHLY MAGAZINE,
DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO BEE CULTURE.

Established in 1861, by the late Samuel Wagner.

AND

The National Bee Journal,

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American Bee Journal.

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AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL,

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO BEE CULTURE.

Vol. XI.

CHICAGO, DECEMBER, 1875.

No. 12.

Our New Year's Present.

In order to encourage the prompt payment of subscription to the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for 1876, we have concluded to make a New Year's present to all who shall *pay up all arrearages*, if any are due, and *two dollars in advance for 1876*, by the first day of January next. This present is a genuine oil-chromo, entitled, "Memories of Childhood," size 17x21 inches, designed and painted by F. B. Carpenter.

As there are but a few hundred of this magnificent oil-chromo in existence, those who want a copy of it should SEND EARLY, in order to secure it. We shall send it by mail postpaid, as fast as the remittances come, on and after the 1st of December, until all are gone.

It is an artistic combination of portraits and landscape, representing a group of four bright and beautiful children, engaged in out-door recreation under the shade of a venerable tree, from a branch of which is suspended a swing, in which sits a young girl, smiling on a lad who is holding a buttercup under her chin, as a test whether or not she loves butter; while another sweet girl, with a hoop in her hands, and another intelligent and dignified looking youth with his slate and books under his arm, are thoughtfully looking at the effect produced. There is also in the foreground a favorite Esquimaux dog, which seems to take a deep interest in the proceedings; while in the background is a sail-boat on the lake lying at the base of a mountain. Flowers are in full bloom about them, buttercups in abundance. The picture is suggestive of modesty, innocence and SCHOOL-DAY joys. It is a delightful picture, suited to the school-room, drawing-room or parlor, and is one of the most valuable and acceptable premiums ever offered by publishers to subscribers.

Bear in mind, this is not a CHEAP picture gotten up expressly for a premium, but a genuine oil-chromo, having the imprint of the artist and the publisher, and guaranteed by us to give satisfaction.

The Centennial.

As a member of the committee for the Centennial, we are encouraged at the notices we receive from those who are preparing articles for our department of the Exhibition. Among others, John Long, of New York, writes us, and we give the following extract from his letter, hoping it may suggest ideas to others: E.S.T.

"In regard to the Centennial, I would say that I do wish to make a display in your department, and propose to do my part in rendering that department interesting. I am having constructed two observation hives, made of ornamental wood, richly carved antique Swiss style, one for an Italian swarm and the other a black swarm. These will be so arranged that the queen and inside workings of the hives will be fully displayed; the flight-board will be turned toward the wall of the building, which I will get permission to pierce and run a short tin tubing out from the hive, and put little flight-boards outside the building. I have tried this plan here, and it works well; the bees working nicely. I also propose to have two microscopes mounted on stands with black and Italian bees under each—have them entire and dissected, the objects to be mounted in the best way. In addition to this, I have some wonderful specimens of the bees' industry, such as glass castles well filled with honey, curiously wrought, urns, etc.; also specimens of comb and strained honey and beeswax from England, Scotland, Cuba, Texas, Chili, and our own country, embracing almost every known variety. The whole will be neatly arranged in a nice silver-plated show-case. If anything else comes within my reach, between now and the time to enter the goods, I will do my best to procure it, if it is an object of interest.

JOHN LONG.

522 Hudson st., New York.

Notes AND Queries

ANSWERS BY MRS. TUPPER.

Please tell me how to smoke bees without injuring or killing them. This time of year they are so out I cannot put a smoking rag to the entrance without hurting them, and you say, when working among them *do not* mash any. How is it to be helped when they crawl so continually where they should not? I brush them back, but before I can put a honey-box on, they are out. Where shall I keep honey this time of year to keep it good? How many pounds of surplus honey should a good stand of common bees store in a season? J. M.

Do not put your smoker too near; blow the smoke among them at the entrance, and to avoid crushing the bees, have a small broom or wing and brush them out of your way, then a puff or two of smoke will keep them down.

Keep honey, at this time of year, in some dry upper room—not in the cellar.

It is impossible to tell you how much honey you ought to get from a good colony; seasons and locations differ so much. All the way from none at all to seven hundred pounds have been reported from one colony! 60 or 70 lbs. box honey is not an uncommon yield from a hive, this year, in some places; in others, even the best colonies have made no honey.

Please tell us how to cut the honey-comb and fit it to a small box of four to six pounds, which will look as if the bees had done it. My honey for market is in frames of from six to seven and a half pounds. I like to cut and fit it to the small boxes. J. M. TELLES.

Cass co., Ill.

Take the combs carefully from the frames and lay them on a folded cloth, as in transferring; cut into pieces a little larger than the box, slide and crowd them carefully into it. Put in the glass and set the box over a strong colony whose hive is filled with honey. The bees will fasten the pieces nicely in a short time, if it is done while the weather is warm.

How are we to know a fertile worker from a drone-laying queen? A friend of mine has two stocks without fertile queens. Eggs are found in both; in one

eggs are found in worker cells, but the cells in which eggs are laid are extended one-fourth of an inch to give the desired length. The cells sometimes contain three or four eggs, and are left sticking to one side of the cells. In the other hive the eggs are all laid in drone cells, the bees removing the honey from them to give the desired room; the cells containing from one to half a dozen eggs or young larvæ. Both hives are unwilling to reserve queen cells and are doing very little. Are they both workers or unfertile queens? A SUBSCRIBER.

A drone-laying queen looks exactly like any other queen; a fertile worker, like a worker. It is easy to find a queen, even though she is a drone-laying one, but almost impossible to find a fertile worker. We think your friend's hives both contain fertile workers. Look over the combs and, if you find no queen, you may be sure of it.

Which is the most practical and profitable hive—one 8 frames 18 inches long and 11 inches deep, or one 14 frames 11 inches long and 14 inches deep?

W. G. W.

We do not like either size of frame named, as well as one 12x12 inches. No doubt bees can be managed in any frame, but that is our preference. If bees are kept with a desire to increase as fast as possible, a hive with 9 frames each, 12x12 inches, is large enough. If you want to secure the most honey possible, make a hive to contain double that number of frames.

Please tell me how to keep my bees safely through the winter. They have done well for me this summer, and I want to be sure they will live over. We have not many cold days here, when bees cannot fly; is it necessary to house them or protect them in any way?

BEEKEEPER.

If we lived in Southern Missouri, where this beekeeper does, we should try putting bees in a house or cellar. We think bees need protection just as much there as farther north. Sunny days draw them out of the hives; they consume more honey when thus excited, and there is nothing for them to gather, be the weather ever so pleasant; so nothing is gained by their flight. Whenever the season of rest comes to vegetation, we believe that it will pay to put bees away and give them a rest, too. We have never tried it in Missouri,

but we wish some one would, and keep bees in a cellar or bee-house, for at least three months, while no brood is being raised. We think they will come out stronger in spring for it.

Is it a disadvantage to the main hive to have a buckwheat swarm leave? Might it not rather be said that with fewer consumers, and a young queen, it was a gain?
D. C. M.

It would be a gain, no doubt, if the main hive were left strong in young hatching bees, and was sure of a fertile queen.

While doubling up weak colonies, how shall I prevent them from stinging each other to death? What is the best method of doubling up?
S. CALLAND.

If one of the colonies to be united is queenless, there is no trouble in putting them together. If not, the queen may be taken away a few days before uniting, and it can then be done without more trouble.

If you do not care to do this, follow these directions: Smoke both colonies till quiet, then remove both from their old places; take another hive of the same kind as the ones to be united, remove the frames one by one from the hives, shaking all the bees into the empty one; then select the best combs and put them into the hive with the bees. All the bees living in a strange hive will unite quietly, and wherever they are placed, will mark the location, though we usually set them where the strongest hive was before. This can be done in quicker time than we have written it, and will never fail. We have often set a hive with the best frames arranged in it, right over the one containing the bees, and left them to go up at their leisure. It is hardly necessary to say that the combs left over must be put away with care out of the reach of robber bees.

Is it a good way to hatch out queens in small boxes over the brood? When they are hatched out, will they eat honey if it is placed in the box?
H. S. HARRISON.

We have hatched queens in this way in warm weather and had good success; but have failed when it was cool.

Young queens will eat honey rather than starve, but they do not thrive as they do when fed and nursed by the bees.

I see in the JOURNAL articles about the enemies. Our worst enemy is the martin or mud swallow. I opened the stomach of one young swallow and found 8 perfect workers in it. The law here forbids the destruction of birds' nests, and they are quite thick around this part of the State.
GEO. VAN VORIS.

West Fulton, N. Y.

Our friend need not be afraid of either the martins or mud swallows. They do catch insect, but prefer those which are smaller than bees. It would be well to remember that the martin is a larger bird, with somewhat different habits than the mud swallows, which one was meant?

I have heard it said that one acre of mignonette is worth 10 acres of buckwheat for bees, please answer through the JOURNAL, for my benefit and all others in the bee business.
W. G. W.

Mignonette is an excellent honey plant, no doubt, but we do not think it so much superior to buckwheat. The seed for an acre would be very expensive and as it has no use but for honey, we don't think it would pay to sow it for that alone. We would like to have some one sow an acre and report.

Would you advise one who had no combs of consequence, and wanted to secure them, to purchase Long's comb foundation? Will it pay?
J. C.

We answer "yes," most heartily. The comb foundation is valuable for those anxious to secure a supply of comb. It saves both time and honey to the bees, whether used in full size or in strips; to secure straight comb it is worth double its cost to the bee-keeper.

Bees here in this vicinity find next to nothing from July 1st to Aug. 1st, from which to gather honey. With what can we best supply that lack?
H. S. HEATH.

We have found nothing better than buckwheat sown from May 15th to June 1st, and coming into bloom through July, to fill the vacancy you complain of.

Does it injure the eggs, or young larva in the combs, to whirl them in the extractor?
J. W. DUNN

Corpus Christi, Texas.

We have always thought, and our experience confirms us in it, that eggs and young larvæ are destroyed by whirling them in the extractor, though sealed brood

does not seem to be. Some bee-keepers do not think so.

Our bees do not often put more honey near the brood than they will need for its use, and we have found no advantage in taking honey from comb containing larvae.

Annual Meeting North American Bee-Keeper's Society.

The fifth annual session of the North American Bee-Keeper's Society will be held in Toledo, Ohio, in the Druid Hall, 33 Washington street, on the first Wednesday of December next, (first day) at 10 A. M., to continue three days.

HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS.

We have arranged with the following hotels to entertain members of the N. A. B. K. Society; the prices named being fifty cents below their regular terms: Burnett House, corner Summit and Perry streets, Ed. Burnett, propr., \$1.50; American House, St. Clair street, Gaines & Hamlin, propr., \$1.50 per day; Hannah House, corner Market square and Washington street, \$1.50 per day; St. Charles Hotel, Ottawa street, can entertain twenty-five or thirty at \$1 per day, and is a good house. There were several other hotels whose names we forget. They will charge as above; there will be no trouble to find room for all who may attend, at the above rates.

RAILROAD ARRANGEMENTS.

We have arranged with the Toledo, Wabash & Warsaw R. R., to sell tickets to members and all wishing to attend. Tickets will be sold at 25 per cent. deduction from their regular rates. We are now writing to other ticket agents and hope to get the same deduction. I would say to all that wish to attend to enquire at their ticket office and ascertain if they have been notified to sell at reduced rates.

G. W. ZIMMERMAN.

In the letter of GEO. B. WALLACE, San Bernardino, Cal., published on page 256 of the November JOURNAL the printer made a mistake. Instead of his only having 32 pounds of honey, he had 32 barrels from 200 hives, besides several hundred pounds retained for home use, and several

tons, yet in his two-story Langstroth hives, too dark for market. Also in answer, No. 3, instead of buckwheat, read buckwheat grease wood.

A NEW SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION in the art of scientific bee-keeping has been exhibited in this office by Mr. A. G. Hill, of Kendallville, Ind. Mr. H. has seven to ten small model hives so arranged with frames on which are cards printed with representations of comb of all kinds, in all possible shapes and conditions. By means of these frames, he can explain to those unacquainted with the art of bee-keeping, how to divide and transfer, and how to so care for and arrange them as to make it a certainty in regard to successful operations. Mr. H. has gotten up type representations of comb in one-inch squares, by means of which he can produce a hundred different combs, with no two alike. With these model combs, all the operations pertaining to apiculture are performed and illustrated to instruct pupils how to successfully manage an apiary.

This system is so simple and at the same time so complete that it cannot fail to interest the many thousands of farmers who keep a few stocks of bees in the old-fashioned way, and will induce them to make a science, of what they have heretofore taken but little or no interest in.

The adjustable table, an adjustment of which will be found in our columns, is not only useful for the purposes named, but may be used in the apiary to good advantage in securing swarms or transferring combs. Try it and see.

CORRESPONDENTS.—We point with especial pride to the very large list of correspondents to the old and reliable AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, as exhibited in the Index found in this number. To all, individually and collectively, we offer our thanks for the very interesting matter furnished during the year 1875. We hope they will furnish us with their best thoughts and experiments during the coming year.

We employ no traveling agents, depending entirely upon local club agents and our volunteer friends generally, to keep up our circulation.

For the American Bee Journal.
Wintering and Springing Bees.

BY W. B. RUSH.

To the President, Secretary and Members of the Northeastern Bee-Keepers' Association:

GENTLEMEN:—Your letter, dated May 1st, was forwarded to me. Please accept my compliments for being placed on your list of honorary members, among men so worthy of the name of apiarists.

In accordance with your resolution requesting me to give a statement of my experience and results in wintering and springing bees, I will submit this paper to the Society. If it will assist in preventing the loss of bees during the winter, then my object will be attained. I had intended giving the Society an essay on bee-keeping for the whole year, but, on a second consideration, I decided to publish a pamphlet, compiled from past experiences, and the experiments of the best apiarists of the present time.

Wintering, to most Northern bee-keepers, is a serious subject, and has been for the past four winters; and the probabilities at present are that next winter will be the most trying one yet known.

But those south of the Mason & Dixon line have not yet felt the pangs of losing their bees; still, I shall not be surprised to learn of some new disease even there. There are few disputes on wintering, yet there are as many plans practiced as there are patent hives.

The summer of 1871 was an excellent one for honey, and I succeeded so well that I bought several colonies and decided to keep bees instead of dosing pills, but in the winter of 1871 and 1872 some disasters occurred, and I set about to meet them and make amends in the spring. I began different plans for springing, and commenced a series of experiments to learn for myself how to succeed. In the meantime I met with some sad losses.

In December, 1872, I found that a good many bees died, and many had the dysentery. Many were not aware that their bees were so badly diseased and starving until I called attention to it; to their surprise they found that not one-half of them would winter through. I bought a large number of weak hives, and several hundred pounds of empty comb. When I got my bees home I found several diseased and many starving. Now, what to do, was the question.

December 26th was a fine day; I then attempted to feed them, but that night it became colder; they were full and still eating. To raise the temperature, in the morning I put some of them in the cellar and wrapped a portion of them with

carpets; I put ten in my room and the rest on their summer stands. All those in the room and part of those in the cellar had disease. In the room, I kept the temperature at 60 degrees. I saw they must have a flight and discharge the feces, but the temperature outside was 20 degrees above zero, and in the cellar it was 34 degrees. I let some out in my room, and they went against the glass and perished.

Jan. 1st, 1873, I made a glass box, 4 feet square on the end and ten feet long, put it in a warm room and set a hive on it; they flew out finely, discharged, went back and remained quiet. All that showed any signs of disease, I treated in the same way, and lost but one hive. During the next spring, I made a glass house to fly my bees in, which has since been called the "Bidwell cold frame," which he discovered in the beginning of 1874. Up to April, 1873, I had lost only one hive, but the next day I lost nine, by being robbed while from home.

I bought more in Feb., 1874—five with dysentery and three with foul brood. The first I put in clean hives with clean comb; I soaked the combs in tepid water for 24 hours, then rinsed them by pouring water on the combs from an elevation of six feet; I let them dry in a room and they were as good as ever. Those with foul brood I put in a solution—of rainwater, one gallon, carbolic acid, one half ounce—mixed and put in a wooden vessel. I uncapped the brood, put the combs in the solution and placed closely, so as to cover them; I left them in for 24 hours, and then took them out and put them in the extractor, and threw out the brood. I then returned the combs to a new solution and left them in 12 hours, and then extracted again. I then rinsed them as I did the others having dysentery, and dried in a room; when dry, I fumigated them with burning tar smoke.

Foul brood, in all the cases that I observed, was caused by excessive cold, and the fetid air from those already dead caused a continuation of the disease in the same hive. How long it would continue to spread, I am unable to say. Combs from hives with dysentery can easily be cleaned and used again without danger, but I would not advise any one to clean those having foul brood, although I used combs from hives that had foul brood, and did not see any evil results; still, it is *not* safe.

Cold produces dysentery in *most* cases, but not in all. I gave dysentery to two hives by feeding sorghum molasses, and afterwards saw five hives dead that had been fed sorghum. I heard that it would do so, and it proved to be true. I produced it in another fine hive by feeding "*candied honey*;" the honey became thin, fermented slightly, and (as it always does)

candied. But, where I fed as directed in this paper, I obtained fine results. I do not apprehend that either of these diseases will occur, if prepared for winter according to these directions, in October. I cannot spare time to further enumerate experiments.

There are three ways that bees may be successfully wintered, yet none will be likely to succeed unless prepared for it. Time will only permit me to give printed directions, and not experiments and reasons. What has succeeded with me for three years, just past, will certainly carry through others.

The first plan is to build a regular green-house, leaving out the propagating beds and warming by one flue at back side; then paint the glass inside with a coat of white paint, so as not to allow the bees to see out, yet retain plenty of light. On the same plan you can build a house, excavate in the side of a bank (or make a bank) sufficiently, have your sills and plates 4x10 inches, studding 2x10, front posts 6 ft. high and back ones 9 ft. high for a building 12 ft. wide. Board up the walls on outside with inch oak plank, inside half-inch, fill in between studding with very dry sawdust, tightly bank up the dirt all around except at the door (and have that double), put glass on same as on a green-house, paint the glass to obstruct the sight; build thin shutters so as to cover over all the glass and darken the room; build a small shed by the door, put under it a big stove, pass the pipe into the room and have a drum on it to warm the room. Keep the room as near fifty degrees as possible, and on warm days open the shutters and let your bees have a flight, and they may be left open without damage, during mild weather. Have ventilators at the top, and should they become too warm, open the door at night. Inside you can arrange shelves, like steps, to set the hives on. About the first of November divide your colonies into as many as you have queens, and set them in this house. Should they need food before the first of February, give it to them in a comb, and place it in the hive; and in the same way, give water once a week. First of February commence to feed a small amount of syrup made from coffee sugar A. One lb. of sugar to same quantity of water; boil, skim, set away, feed regularly in the evening, continue to feed until blossoms come, then set them out. This is expensive, but cheap in the end, and a safe way to winter. You can increase your colonies for producing your first honey; you will also save many bees that would fly out in winter and spring, and perish. I have seen strong colonies perish in this way.

The second and third methods require the same preparations. These preparations should begin last of September or first of October. The first thing is, be

sure your queen is prolific; have plenty of young brood, and, if not already in the hive, stimulate by feeding syrup, as follows: sugar $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., water one pint (not tincupful), boil, skim, set aside until cool, add two teaspoonfuls of lemon extract to flavor and attract the bees, and which will often prevent the syrup from granulating; warm the syrup and feed in the evening until you have plenty of brood. It is very important to have plenty of young bees for safe wintering; continue breeding until you have sufficient bees to cover five combs on a frosty morning. Feed enough to make 25 lbs. of feed in the hive, and it is important that it is all capped over.

The first warm day in November take tin tubes $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch long and $\frac{5}{8}$ ths in diameter, which are made as follows: take tin seven-eighths wide by fifteen-eighths long, bend it around a stick until the ends meet; open your hives, take out the frames and cut holes through the combs to fit the tubes, two and a half inches from the top, and at equal distances from the ends and each other, and two tubes to each comb, put in the tubes, and close up the hive. At this time examine the condition of the hives, and see if you have them all right, and if all right, leave them until about the 25th of November, or as soon as freezing begins. See that all is right, take out one frame of honey (if there is one uncapped, take it), and put an empty frame (I mean frame with empty comb) in the center of the hive. Have with you a piece of coffee sack (good thickness) the size of the top of your hive (inside), lay over the frames crossways two strips, a half-inch square, equal distance from ends and each other; now lay on the sack, then put on the second story (if you have one) and, if not, make a sack same size of the hive and fill with chaff and cut straw, so that when pressed it will be four inches thick, lay it on the hive and put on the lid, and lay on top of lid four bricks to hold it down; but if you have the second story put it on, and put on the second piece of sack and fill in with chaff and cut straw; contract the entrance to one-half the usual size, and see that mice cannot get in. Do not disturb the bees, until there has been a freeze of two or three days, then as soon as the weather moderates, go and take the straw off, and thaw and dry it, and in the evening put on again. Much ice and dampness will accumulate in the straw and chaff, caused by the respiration of the bees, which is considerable in cold weather. Cover your hives so as to keep off snow and rain, and have boards or corn fodder to protect them from the north and west winds. Repeat, drying the straw as often as there is a thaw; keep it on until fruit bloom, for they need it most when rearing brood. Do not disturb the bees any more than you can possibly help,

and do not take off the sack next to the frames, unless you have cause to warrant the removal.

The third method. You prepare the bees in same way as in the second. The only difference is, the colonies may be weaker than in the second method, but the same in all other respects. When prepared as above, put them in any *dry* cellar, with the temperature between 40 and 45 degrees. When I say dry, I mean so dry that no dampness from rain or mold ever occurs. Then put in as soon as freezing begins; you may put them in any dry room where the cold does not get below 33 degrees, for they are far better out than if frost reaches them. As often as the weather will admit set them out and give them a flight, but be careful not to let them get very cold, for they are very sensitive to cold, and cannot endure as much as though they had been out all the time. Place them where it is quite dark, and do not let in any light, nor disturb them at all. All the noise you can make does not interrupt them, but jarring annoys them greatly.

Nuclei can be kept by the first or third methods, but not by the second, nor even a weak colony. When I keep bees in the North, again, which I shall do (if life is prolonged), I will adopt the first method for all weak stocks and nuclei, if not for strong hives, and never use the third, unless I could *not* get either of the others, for as soon as it freezes in the cellar your bees are half ruined and balance badly damaged. The point in the third is to not allow the temperature below 33 degrees, and quite dry, then all is right.

If these directions are followed, and they are standard colonies, any one is certain of success. I never lost a hive by the second method, and only one by the first, but lost several by the third; and there was only a half-inch of ice in the cellar. The second will be one mostly pursued, and if you bring your bees up to the number one point, in October, it is as good as any and much the cheapest.

SPRINGING.

On this part of my article depends the success of a good yield of honey, *if* nature secretes any of her nectar in the abundance of her flowers, but if she fails, as she did in the last three years, in almost all the United States, then "wintering and springing" avails but little. But we will hope; still strive and look forward to the favored day for blessings.

We will once more try and winter safely as we can, then spring them, and look for an abundant harvest. Spring them as follows:

As soon as the weather will admit, commence to stimulate breeding; warm syrup scented with lemon extract, if they have need of empty comb for the queen,

then take out one filled with capped honey, and insert an empty one in the centre of the hive for the queen, and as soon as filled insert another. Feed regularly, for, as soon as you stop feeding, the queen quits laying eggs, and it takes several days to start her again. It is, therefore, of great importance to feed regularly until honey comes, and, in a case of a cessation of yield, then feed again, and as soon as honey comes you are prepared to take it. Should you have weak colonies, double up, for one strong colony can raise more brood than three weak ones for several reasons—weak ones are subject to the moth; they cannot hatch many eggs at a time; they cannot defend themselves from robbers, nor gather any honey, as it requires all their force at the hive and none to go abroad for stores; also requires a greater amount of honey in proportion, to keep up the temperature; keep them strong, if you have to put four into one. I again repeat, bring your colonies up to the highest strength possible, if you would secure large yields.

SUCCESS IN THE APIARY

depends upon close attention and proper care in wintering; stimulation in springing; these regularly attended to *will always give strong stocks* for wintering and honey season. Do your swarming after honey season is over.

Simpson's Store, Pa., April 17th, 1875.

For the American Bee Journal.

A few Words from Southern California.

I feel as though I must enter my protest against some of the sweeping assertions made in the July number, by R. J. Colburn, of Chicago, in regard to the bees and honey of Southern California.

After giving to that section the preference as the greatest honey-producing country of equal area in the world, he says; "I am further satisfied that its distance from good markets, and liabilities to the disease, known as 'foul brood,' as well as ravages from the moth, may reduce the high estimate some people have of it." True, we are quite a distance from market, but we cannot always get producers and consumers together. California wheat is the best the world produces, and it pays to ship to Europe; that may yet be our best market for honey; and at paying prices too. Then, the yield of honey is so abundant here, (in good seasons) and our losses of bees so small, that we can as well afford to ship our honey to Chicago or N. Y., as those who live nearer, and lose from one-quarter to three-quarters of their colonies every winter. As to 'foul brood,' it is something I know nothing about, never having seen any of it, nor met with any one who has in South-

ern California; but I have heard that there was some of it in Los Angeles Co.; and I am of the opinion that it will be found (if found at all) on low, wet lands, or near wine vats. I often hear the remark, that the two great draw-backs to successful bee-culture, in the "States," we do not have to contend with here—foul brood, and wintering.

As for the moth, occasionally, we find a worm in the hive, but not often; and I believe, with Mr. Longstroth, that a strong colony, with a prolific queen, need never fear the ravages of the moth; but a queenless one is almost sure to fall a prey to them here or elsewhere.

Again, he says: "In regard to the quality of California honey, it seems to be the opinion of every person who has tasted it, with whom I have talked, that it cannot compare with our white clover, except in looks, 'Novice' to the contrary notwithstanding. But its looks sells it." There is quite a difference in the quality of honey in different localities in Southern California. In the neighborhood of Santa Barbara—where we lived five years, and had some experience with bees—the early honey, gathered largely from alfilarilla (*flairei*—commonly called) is very fine; but the late honey gathered from the "tar-weed," mostly, is dark in color, and strong in flavor. The eastern part of this county, where there is abundance of white sage and sumac, produces as fine honey as the world ever saw. The early honey is equal to that gathered in Santa Barbara Co., from nearly the same plants; and the later, gathered from the white sage, I would venture to place beside any white clover honey to be found by any bees in any State in the Union. It is clear as water, thick, and of a flavor to tempt mortals. Apiarists, who have kept bees east of the Rocky Mountains, and in California, give the palm to the white sage honey, above the white clover. The honey gathered from the sumac—not the eastern sumac—I think, is not quite so light-colored, tho' it is hard to determine, as it commences to flower before the white sage is gone. The white sage harvest commenced about the third week in May, and closed about the middle of July. The sumac commenced to flower the middle of June, and closed about the third week in July. I have conversed with those who have been in Los Angeles and San Diego counties, and they say that the white sage grows in great abundance in most of the mountain regions; so, I cannot but believe that the bee-keepers there get just as good honey as we do. I saw a statement in the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine*, several months ago, that a large shipment of honey had been made from California; but it was of inferior quality, and would probably remain long on the market. I understand that that honey

was gathered in the neighborhood of Sacramento—how near I know not—on "tule" lands.

Now, it may be, that those persons who passed judgment on California honey, "tasted" of this honey; if so, according to all I hear, the taste of it must be in their mouths yet. I do not want to see California honey condemned on account of it, either. I am satisfied they never tasted white sage honey, or they would never say, "its looks sells it." I am sorry to see in G. F. M.'s communication, in the August number, that most bee-keepers in this locality are losing money. Such is not the case here; and I do not "think the whole business overdrawn." A person cannot go into the bee-business in a comparatively new country, like this, and *live in the city*, where his family can have all the advantages of society, and make money. If he wants his bees to gather the best honey, he must *go where it is*, if it takes him to the foot of a mountain, or up a canyon. If he is able to keep his family in town, well and good; if not, let them share the hardships and deprivations, and get rich, (and I believe they will, if they stick to the business here) then move to the city and to society. Land in this or Santa Barbara counties, does not have to be irrigated to produce a crop, but if well farmed produces splendidly.

We started in this year with 80 colonies of bees in the Langstroth hive; have have taken off 850 boxes of honey, averaging $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 lbs. each; shall probably take off fifty more. Have not got through extracting from the lower part of the hive, but have averaged over 33lbs to the hive as far as extracted. Have increased to 89 colonies. That will make about $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of extracted honey, and over $2\frac{1}{4}$ tons box honey. If this is a failure, I hope I may never make a worse one.

This has been a very poor season, not having any rain since Jan. 6th, to amount to a shower. We had a frost in April that did considerable damage to the bee pasture, and a dry, hot wind the 9th and 10th of May that dried up the flowers to such an extent as to nearly stop the gathering of honey, and the bees tore down all their queen cells. I have already made this letter too long to be acceptable, I fear, so will close. E. G. K.

Ventura Co., Cal., Aug. 9th, 1875.

For the American Bee Journal. Why is It?

All our National Bee Conventions, are held in the dead of winter. If some Governmental power were to compel us to gather up our satchels, pull on our overcoats and overshoes, wrap up in our furs and push out on a trip of five hundred or a thousand miles through frost and snow,

sleet and rain, in the dead of winter, we should be very apt to make ourselves heard at the seat of power; yet annually, we impose these conditions upon ourselves with our eyes wide open, thus compelling a very large number of bee-men to stay in their comfortable homes, rather than face the perils of winter travel.

All our agricultural fairs, both State and county are held in the months of September and October, when all can enjoy the luxury of the season and feast on the fat of the land; but bee-men take back seats until all nature is frozen in. Then one by one they collect in some Northern city: say Pittsburg, Cleveland or Toledo, shut themselves in from the outside world, dispute with one another for a day or two, see nothing and learn but little. Then go shivering home to await the approach of another winter and another convention.

Now, Mr. Editor, these are my arguments for a change of time, to a much earlier day for our National meetings. To myself personally, it matters but little; but it may be of importance to the bee-keepers of America. J. W. BAYARD.

Athens co., O., Nov. 14, 1875.

For the American Bee Journal.

A Wild Swarm taken in and cared for.

While hunting wild strawberries on the first of July, 1872, I found a swarm of bees in the grass clustered on an oak grub. I put them into a Langstroth hive. They filled their hive, and made me about thirty pounds of box-honey. In 1873 they swarmed once, and both swarms made honey enough to winter on, besides about twenty-five pounds each of box-honey. In 1874 both swarmed within a few minutes of each other and of course clustered together, and, to clap the climax, both ran away. I had one more good swarm from them and two small ones, which I united, making me four good swarms to commence this year with. My surplus honey for 1874 was only about fifty pounds. I have wintered in the cellar and for fear of the bees, have, until this season, depended on natural swarming. This spring, while taking them from the cellar to their summer stands, one got tipped over, spilling out the bees, frames, and making a general smash of nearly all their comb. I had to fix up, put on my bee gloves and pick up the bees and frames with as much honey as I could, and put them back into the hive. An examination after a few weeks showed them to be trying hard to repair the sad mishap; but they were very weak in bees. I therefore changed places with this and my strongest hive. This strengthened the weak one, but the loss of so many honey gatherers from the strong hive, made them kill off their drones, under the im-

pression that the honey supply was cut off. They both were apparently about ready to swarm on the first of August, when I took about two frames from each and made a new swarm. All three are doing finely and from present appearances will give me about fifty pounds of box-honey. My two strong stocks swarmed early; I saved both swarms, and in a few days, each swarmed again; both of these I saved. One of them not being very strong, I gave it a frame with brood from an old hive that had killed its drones. The first swarm of my two strong hives have also swarmed. The first came out unexpectedly and settled on a tree, and was not discovered until just before it took its flight for the woods. The other swarmed about the middle of August, but went back to the old hive again without settling. It swarmed again about the 30th of August and settled all right, but I thought it was "fooling," so returned it to the old hive again. I examined it however, that day and found, they had swarmed on purpose. I therefore divided giving each about half the comb and a queen cell. I examined them yesterday, both are working nicely and have plenty of fresh laid eggs. All my hives are working in boxes except the two last divided. From one of my strong ones that swarmed twice I have taken two five-pound boxes, and they have three twelve-pound boxes nearly ready to come off now. One of this season's stocks that has swarmed, now has four small boxes on it, in which the bees are working strongly, and I also took from it this morning a full box weighing between fifteen and sixteen pounds, including the box. My four swarms of last spring, notwithstanding the smash-up and one swarm lost in the woods, have now increased to ten. I have taken about forty pounds of box honey and about one hundred and twenty pounds more in sight on the hives. Our bees pasture on linn, buckwheat, golden-rod, smart-weed, and a plant looking something like "touch-me-not;" It grows in wet places, and has a yellow blossom.

MRS. MORRIS MCHENRY.

Crawford co., Iowa, Sept. 8, 1875.

For the American Bee Journal.
Amateur.

When I tell you that I have since the 10th of May, and with only one assistant, transferred 186 hives of bees, for myself and neighbors from old box hives to movable frames, and have taken over 20,000 lbs of honey, you can well imagine that we have not been idle. And the beauty of it is that we have not a *single crooked comb* in our whole apiary of 150 hives; 100 of them having 17 combs per hive and the remainder are two-story hives, with 12 combs below and 12 above, making a

total of 2,900 combs—all straight and nice.

I have been through the rub in securing straight combs, and know how to appreciate them. The best way to secure straight combs is to have all frames filled in full colonies with good queens, and an empty frame between two straight working combs, near the entrance of the hive.

In transferring it is not expected that any one will put comb into one-half of the frames in new hives, therefore I would advise all to alternate the frames, containing comb with those having no comb, being careful not to spread brood too far apart, so that it will not be protected by the bees.

Our sage honey is much harder to throw out with the extractor than the white clover honey, or any other kind of honey for that matter. It is very thick and stiff. But I have succeeded in throwing out 1170 lbs in one day without an assistant. I fancy that there has not been many better day's work with the extractor than that. Probably you would like a description of

MY EXTRACTOR.

It is a can made of a single sheet of galvanized iron, 2x6 feet, and makes a can 22 inches in diameter and 22 inches deep, with a bottom of the same material. The gauze frame is made by taking a square rod of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch iron, 26 in. long, and drilling a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole through both ways 5 inches from the top and the same 16 inches (or the length of your frame) below these holes as well as the same at equal distance between the upper and lower holes. Then take six rods of iron $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and 21 inches long, cut thread on both ends of every rod $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and have taps for same. Put the rods through the holes in the center rod, and fasten them just in the middle. Now take four $\frac{3}{8}$ inch round rods 16 inches long (or the length of the frame) fasten at both ends and in the middle, drill $\frac{1}{4}$ inch holes through, so that you can slip over the ends of the rods, you put through the centre rod.

Put on the tops first, then put on the last rods. This makes a frame work around which you can stretch your wire gauze. Have the meshes in the gauze at least $\frac{1}{4}$ square, cut the gauze the proper length to go around your frame when the taps are screwed down and sew the ends together very securely. After the gauze is well fastened, the taps can be turned out towards the ends of the rods, and tighten the gauze to any required tension; The tightness of the gauze has a great deal to do with a good extractor. Put in cross bars of iron or wood at the bottom of the gauze, on which to rest the frames. The center rod is put into a tap, soldered on the centre of the bottom of the can, with a square shoulder to prevent its jumping out. You can use gearing at the top if you like, but I prefer a good

solid crank about 4 inch long. The center rod turns through a hole in a bar of wood across the top of the can and holds to its place by the handles of can, each end of the bar run through a handle and secured by pins on outside. A lid is fastened to this bar on each side. Thus you have an extractor, which will empty four combs at once, and is as light and durable as any I ever saw.

If any one has taken more than 1170 lbs of honey in one day they have beaten
Orange, Cal. AMATEUR.

For the American Bee Journal. Nellie's Experiment.

We were awaiting the bass-wood harvest. Our bees were of one mind—determined to swarm. We were equally determined that they should not swarm. We had shaded, and sprinkled, and watched, and now and then, when the case grew desperate, we had steeled our hearts and clipped the wings of a queen.

But one bright Sabbath morning, taking treacherous advantage of our absence at church, our fair Marjorie Daw led forth her colony into unknown recesses of the green wood. Then we clipped the wings of the queens to all our strongest colonies. But colonies grow strong (or seem to) in a single night, sometimes; and so it happened that soon thereafter a large swarm was sent forth by a colony we had accounted small.

Scorning the convenient cherry trees at hand, they started in a wavering, undecided course across the oat field, toward the woods. Over every stump they seemed to pause for consultation; now and then they fell back, but only to disappoint us by again advancing. As we followed in their wake, Nellie said,

"They fly so low—we might stop them, I believe. They shall not reach the woods," she added with sudden resolution.

Not far distant was a small wild cherry tree—so small that Nellie easily bent down and broke off its leafy top. With this she hurried on and around, stopping some little distance in front of the fugitives. At first the experiment seemed doubtful, and in the end proved but a partial success. A strong detachment of the bees returned to their hive, the remainder clustering upon the branch which Nellie triumphantly held above her head. Before returning them to the old stand, we made a careful but fruitless search for the queen through each division of the colony.

Satisfied, at length, that she had been lost, we returned the swarm and gave the colony a perfect queen-cell in place of the numerous half completed cells which we had ruthlessly destroyed.

The next afternoon the swarm again

came forth, and under the escort, as it proved, of the queen we had thought lost.

Nellie caught up her branch, now somewhat dry and withered, and hurried to the place in the oat-field where she had stood on the preceding day, and toward which the swarm was again moving. With respect to the risk she incurred, I had remonstrated sufficiently, but to no effect, the day before. So, now, I only hastened to carry a hive, sheet, etc., to the spot. The bees did not hesitate, as before, about accepting the position assigned them, and that the whole swarm would alight soon became evident.

"Is that branch strong enough?" I inquired, anxiously, as the cluster grew larger.

"Of course it is," said Nellie, re-assuringly.

"And are you strong enough to hold it steadily to the end?"

"Quite so! Don't worry, Cyula! If the swarm should come down about my head there will only be another bee or two in my bonnet!"

Just then, glancing toward the house, which had been left alone, I caught the flutter of a white dress, and a moment later had decided that the dress belonged to the minister's wife, and that the broad-brimmed straw hat, just coming round the corner, was worn by the minister himself.

"What shall we do?" I cried, painfully conscious that I could not leave Nellie alone with that mass of bees above her head.

"Perhaps they will not see us, and will wait a little to rest in the shade," suggested Nellie.

Vain hope! we were espied the next moment, and our guests advanced curiously to the edge of the oats, where, after such exchange of courtesies as was possible at that distance, they stood witching the scene.

It was very warm. The sun beat down fiercely alike upon our callers and ourselves. Nellie stood motionless as a statue, holding her loaded branch aloft with both hands. I fancied that her wrist trembled a little now and then, but this she indignantly denied. The bees were gathering with usual rapidity, but the moments were unusually long.

Nellie had just promised to let me help her lower the bees, if I would but wait for them to gather, only one moment longer, and I had turned once more to see if our friends were still watching us, finding, to my relief, that they had retired to the shadow of the house, when, suddenly, an ominous, sharp cracking behind me—

I am ashamed to say that I did not even turn my head. I only jumped a long way further on.

The catastrophe was almost simultane-

ous with the warning. As I turned, the mass of bees came down with the broken branch. Fortunately, Nellie had been able to give it a partial inclination and the greater portion struck the sheet. But it is needless to say that bees were sent flying and falling in all directions. Never before had either Nellie or myself been caught in such a shower. Nellie, as was natural, was the more plentifully sprinkled. To my breathless inquiry—"Are you stung?" she responded,

"No! hurry them into the hive, Cyula, and don't mind me!"

But a moment later, when she had shaken the bees from her hat and dress and stepped back a little, I heard her murmur—

"One, two, three, four,—only four."

Then I ordered her to the house forthwith; and mindful of our neglected guests, if not of my suggestions of ammonia, etc., she obeyed.

When, after a little time, I was able to follow, I found her regaling our guests with the last strawberries of the season, and entertaining them with a description of our adventure. She was dwelling upon the narrow escape Cyula had had, and the *presence of mind* (!) Cyula had shown in springing forward at just the right moment, almost from under the falling swarm. Despite the fact that her hands were swollen to a more than comely plumpness, and that one cheek bore ludicrous resemblance to that of a provident chip-munk, she had evidently succeeded in conveying to our friends the impression that her own share in the transaction had been of quite secondary importance.

As soon as I could obtain a hearing, I proceeded to reconstruct Miss Nellie's statement,—i. e., to put her facts into their proper relations, and to set them in their true light. And then, honor having been awarded where it was due, I decreed that this should be the last experiment of the kind that should be tried in our apiary.

"Yes," said Nellie, "for next time I will make sure that the branch be perfectly fresh and strong!"

CYULA LINSWICK.

For the American Bee Journal. Maury Co. (Tenn.) Meeting.

The Maury County Bee Society met at the Recorder's office on Saturday, the 9th. There was a good attendance, nearly every portion of the county being represented. The meeting was called to order by Mr. W. S. Rainey, after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. The constitution submitted at the last meeting was taken up and acted upon, section by section. Articles first, second and seventh adopted as read. Ar-

ticle fourth, so amended as to make the term of office twelve months, and the number of the Executive committee, three. Article fifth, amended to make all committees, except the Executive, appointable by the President. Article sixth, the stated meetings were fixed on the first Saturdays in January, April, July and October. Article eight was so amended as to require all amendments to the constitution to be made at a regular stated meeting. The constitution as amended, was then read and adopted as a whole.

The society then went into an election of officers for the next ensuing year, with the following result:

W. S. Rainey President; C. C. Vaughn Vice President; Wm. J. Andrews Secretary and Treasurer; Dr. A. T. Boyd, David Staples and J. J. Jones were elected as the Executive Committee.

After the close of the regular business Dr. A. T. Boyd delivered an address on apiculture. We will not attempt to give the whole of the lecture of the Doctor, but simply the heads of the different points he touched upon. In the first place he spoke of the kind of Hive which should be used, that no one could be a bee-keeper and thoroughly understand his business, unless he used the movable frame hives.

SWARMING.

He did not believe in artificial swarming; preferred natural. Spoke at some length of after swarms. Thought one swarm sufficient and that all after swarming should be prevented. He clipped the wings of his queen; then when they swarmed, the queen fell upon the ground and he had no trees to climb nor large limbs to saw off. When the queen came out and fell to the ground he covered her with a small box; he then moved the hive from which the swarm had issued to a new position some twenty or thirty feet distant, and placed a new hive on the old stand. That as soon as the bees missed their queen they would return to the spot from whence they had issued in search of her. When they had sufficiently settled, he released the queen from the box in front of the hive, and allowed her to crawl in to the bees. His experience was that the moving of the hive from which the swarms had issued, would as a rule prevent any after swarms, but it was not infallible—that he had known after swarms to come from them. He made it a rule to return all after swarms to the hive from which they issued, and had never known bees to desert brood.

AGE OF BEES.

It had often been said that bees were short lived; this he was fully aware of, and any one could very easily satisfy themselves on that score. He had himself removed on the 12th of August a black queen from a hive that had only

black bees in it, and introduced a yellow queen, and to-day it had very few black bees in it—in fact, it was difficult to find them. This went very clearly to prove that the bees were very short-lived, that a great many were destroyed on the wing. It was therefore very essential to have a fertile queen to keep up the stock from the waste of life.

VENTILATION.

There should be upward ventilation in winter. The bees themselves would generally regulate their own ventilation. Winter ventilation was necessary to prevent combs from becoming mildewed and from freezing.

ANGER OF BEES.

He had found all kinds of bees different in their anger. Some of the same species being more gentle and much easier handled than others. The best thing to subdue their anger, was to make them fill themselves with honey; a bee filled with honey never wants to sting. Bees always filled themselves with honey just previous to swarming. Another thing to prevent them from becoming angry, is gentle and quiet handling; a person should never make any quick motions about their bees, but their movements should be slow and deliberate.

THEIR ENEMIES.

While the bees had many enemies, he regarded the moth the worst, but with good strong colonies and a fertile queen, they were not to be dreaded. Moth-proof hives were a delusion and a humbug. The Italian bees protected themselves better from the ravages of the moth than the black bees; had never seen a black bee working at moth webs, have frequently seen the Italian at it.

REARING QUEENS.

On this subject he deemed it useless to say very much. It was presume that every bee-keeper understood this branch of the business. Queens were hatched in about twenty-one days, and were fertilized, in the air. Unfertile queens were drone layers—a fertile queen will commence laying in a few days after being hatched, an unfertile in about three weeks. The queen is much longer lived than the worker bee. They frequently become barren when two years old. Queens are enormous eaters. They lay from one to three thousand eggs a day. Early reared queens he regarded as much the best.

THEIR KEEPERS.

Thought the bees were controlled very much in all their acts by scent more than sight. Thought they knew their keeper from other persons by the scent of his body.

WINTERING BEES.

Their supplies frequently became exhausted during the winter and early in

the spring. In that case they should be fed. Sugar candy he thought a very good food, but honey was the best. In the spring there was usually many disagreeable days—during such days it would be best to feed all a little. He prepared his bees for winter by putting cotton, mote and seed on the top of the hive, which afforded them sufficient ventilation, and absorbed all dampness and prevented a cold draft through the upper part of the hive.

The above is but a poor brief of the Doctor's remarks. He said he intended talking on several other points pertaining to bee-culture, but found that he had already taken up too much time. At the close of Dr. Boyd's remarks, Mr. David Staples made a few remarks. He differed with the Doctor about upward ventilation, he did not want any in his hives—thought paper the best absorbent to use. He extended his remarks at some length on his system of Rarey-ing bees, as Rarey did animals. He introduced queens by shaking them from the frames and subduing them, until they become perfectly quiet and peaceable. He then dropped the queen among them and let them re-enter the hive together. Mr. Staples said he had been working for some days in sorghum, and had noticed that his bees worked very freely on the stumps of the cane. The species of sorghum that he had cultivated was what was known as the red-top variety. In cooking the syrup the bees rapidly took up any that was dropped. He had examined his hives and found that they contained pure sorghum syrup. He intended trying an experiment with a half dozen hives by extracting the honey and feeding them on sorghum and thought it might be a cheap winter food. It had been tried North—knew that it would not do there, but thought it might do South. Mr. Staples continued his remarks to some length on feeding—as a stimulant to bees he always used sour syrup, as they would not store it in their cells.

Mr. J. J. Jones differed with Mr. Staples, and said his bees would not eat sorghum. In reply to a question as to the best preventive of ants it was decided to be diluted salt.

The subject selected for discussion at the next meeting was "Feeding bees—its mode, object and result" and also "Queen rearing."

Wm. J. Andrews offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That all the Bee-keepers of Maury county be invited to each meeting of this society, but only those who pay the society fee, and sign the constitution to be entitled to a vote or to participate in the business of the society.

W. J. Andrews stated to the society that Mr. Horsly had informed him that

he would be glad to have any communications from any of the members on the subject of bees, which would be of a local nature.

It was moved and adopted that Mr. David Staples, be requested to deliver a lecture at the next meeting, and in the event of his being unable to be present that S. D. McLean should do so.

The society then adjourned to meet again the first Saturday in January, 1876.

WM. J. ANDREWS,
Secretary & Treasurer.

For the American Bee Journal.

The Southern Kentucky Bee-Keeper's Association.

The Association met at Burksville, Ky., on Wednesday, Sept. 15th, 1875; officers present: Dr. N. P. Allen, President, H. W. Sanders, Secretary, R. A. Alexander, Assistant Secretary.

The President called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Mr. R. A. Alexander, of Warren county.

On motion the calling of the roll was postponed. The proceedings of last meeting were read by Assistant Secretary R. A. Alexander. On motion the same were unanimously adopted.

The following named persons became members of the Society:—

Jas. H. Richie, Burksville, Ky., T. H. Hancock, Burksville, Ky., Geo. N. Allen, Grider, Ky., Ed. B. Pace, Marrowbone, Ky., F. C. Baker, Burksville, Ky., J. G. Allen, Grider, Ky., Mrs. Jane E. Allen, Grider, Ky., Miss. M. L. Allen, Grider, Ky., Mrs. Lucy Hancock, Burksville, Ky., H. C. Baker, Columbia, Ky., Daniel E. Baker, Burksville, Ky., J. B. Allen, Grider, Ky., Mrs. H. M. Richie, Burksville, Ky., Mrs. Josie Dunn, Burksville, Ky., Mrs. Lou Pace, Marrowbone, Ky., Mrs. Bettie Check, Burksville, Ky., R. M. Check, Burksville, Ky., Jas. A. Gilmer, Burksville, Ky., M. G. Akin, Grider, Ky., E. Ammons, Burksville, Ky.

President Allen made an instructive and interesting address which was favorably received.

A communication was read from Mr. Frank Benton, of Knoxville, Tenn.; and the Secretary was requested to return the sincere thanks of this Association to Mr. Benton, for the very valuable information contained in this paper.

Deferred business. The third question for debate, left over at the last meeting, was then taken up:—"What is the best vegetable to cultivate for bees to gather honey from?"

Mr. Check said, he thought buckwheat the best, as it could be sown so that it would bloom in July and August, and furnish rich pasture for our bees when there was none to be had from other sources.

Mr. Alexander said, I would sow turnips in the fall, for early pasture for bees in the spring. It furnishes pollen in abundance. Then came fruit blossoms and white clover, which pays, not only for bee purtorage, but are valuable crops to cultivate. Then, there is mustard, catnip and buckwheat that are rich honey-plants.

Mr. Hancock spoke as follows:—Mr. President, I see no reason why these hills should not flow with milk and honey. I now propose to become a teacher—have others do the manual labor and I will do the head work. I think we should cultivate the honey-locust in hedges, and hedge up all this ridge land, and plant it in fruit trees, and sow it in white clover. The clover is fine for hogs, the apple crop is valuable, and if boiled and fed will pay better than making brandy.

Mr. Richie remarked, I think the honey-locust a good honey-tree, but it will not bloom in hedges, and it is not pleasant to come in contact with, as it is full of thorns. I agree with Mr. Alexander in regard to the turnip bloom, as it affords early pasturage, that is invaluable.

The President said, that turnips and all the small and large fruits afforded excellent bee parturage, but that the white clover stands at the head of the list as a honey-plant, affording the finest honey and the greatest yield of all the honey-plants. The poplar, linn, sour-wood, and other forest trees might be cultivated with profit. For late summer and fall pasturage he would recommend catnip and buckwheat.

On motion, the President appointed the following committees, with instructions to report at afternoon session:—

Committee on state of Bee Culture in southern Kentucky, with instructions to report the number of hives owned by the members of this Society, the kind of hive, the variety of bees, and their value:—

R. A. Alexander, H. W. Sanders, F. C. Baker, R. M. Cheek.

Committee on Questions for Debate at evening session:—

Wm. Cheek, T. H. Hancock, H. C. Baker, J. H. Richie.

Committee on Hives, Extractors, etc.:—

R. M. Cheek, James H. Richie, M. Hancock.

The Society adjourned till 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention met, President in the chair. The question was taken up:—"When should bees be fed?"

Mr. Alexander said, for stores to winter on, feed in early fall with sugar syrup in time for them to cap it over. To feed for brood raising in early spring, commence about six or eight weeks before the honey-harvest, so as to have them strong when the harvest comes.

The President agreed with Mr. Alexander, and said, they should be fed when they are gathering no honey, in the spring or in the summer, during long wet spells or excessive droughts. It was often the case that they would stop brood-raising; a little feed at such times paid well.

Mr. Richie said, he had found feeding for brood raising very beneficial. He gave an account of a natural swarm that he gave a sheet of brood-comb, and in two weeks they had filled their hive full of comb, every cell being filled with honey, and not an egg or young bee could he find in the hive. The bees swarmed and he hived them in a new hive. They did well, filling the hive with comb, brood and honey.

Mr. Cheek said, the most important time to feed was about six weeks before the honey harvest was expected. To continue feeding up to the time the bees began to gather honey, then the hives would be strong in numbers, and the extractor could be used every four or five days.

The committee on Questions for Debate reported the following, which was adopted:—

1.—The best time and manner of transferring bees.

2.—Moth preventatives.

3.—How to winter bees most successfully.

The committee on Extractors and Hives reported as follows, report adopted:—

We have examined some kinds of extractors and hives, and think an extractor with a stationary can the best, and recommend the Langstroth hive.

Your committee with instructions to report the number of hives owned by the members of this Society, the kind of hives, variety of bees, etc., have not been able to get a complete report from all the members, but beg leave to report the following:—

Number of black bees in box hives, 101. Value of same, \$505.

Number of black bees in movable frame hives, 284. Value of same, \$2,840.

Number of Italian bees in movable frame hives, 234. Value of same, \$3,765.

Total \$7,110.

The question was then taken up, "The best time and manner of transferring bees?"

The President being called on, said, he preferred early spring for transferring, as there was but little brood in the hive then and not so much honey. The combs were lighter and could be handled easier and with better success. As to the manner, he would first blow in smoke at the entrance until the bees were subdued, then invert the hive and place on it a box to secure the bees, tie a cloth around to keep the bees from coming out, and by drumming on the hive fifteen or twenty

minutes, the bees with the queen, would pass up into the empty box, which could then be set on the old stand and the sides of the old hive could be pressed off, and the comb, brood, and honey taken out, put in frames and hung in new hives. Preferred wire to hold comb in frame. Put the new hive with the comb, etc., where the old hive stood, or in a new place if preferred, and proceeded to hive as a natural swarm.

Mr. Cheek said, his manner of transferring was similar to Dr. Ailen's, but preferred driving out the swarm, putting them in a new hive and waiting until the old hive would raise a queen before transferring.

Mr. Hancock said, he preferred to have a young queen to give the hive instead of waiting for them to raise a queen, as they would not lose any time on account of being queenless.

The remaining questions were left for debate at the next meeting of this Society.

On motion, the following persons were appointed to collect the best honey-producing flowers in their respective localities, and to send specimens of all flowers of a doubtful names to THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, with the time of blooming, etc., requesting the true name; the committee requested to report at the next meeting of this Society:—

Wm Cheek, Cumberland Co., Ky.,
B. A. Alexander, Warren Co., Ky., H. C. Baker, Adair Co., Ky., Dr. Stevenson, Barren Co., Ky., James Erwin, Allen Co., Ky., T. E. Shelton, Logan Co., Ky.

The thanks of this Society were tendered to the Grange for the use of this hall, and to the citizens of Burksville, for their hospitality.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet on the third Wednesday in October, 1876, at 10 o'clock A. M.

N. P. ALLEN, President,

H. W. SANDERS, Sec.

For the American Bee Journal.

Two Queens in one Hive.

In April, 1872, I purchased a hive of "Crugers" in box, and when I transferred to movable frames in May following, I found queen cells capped and nearly ready to hatch; a laying queen, which from appearance, was at least one, if not two years old (it was too early in the season for a queen to have mated, as no drones were then flying,) and an old queen very much reduced in size, with wings almost entirely gone. She must have remained from the previous summer in the hive with her daughter.

In May, 1874, I formed a mammoth hive of 32 frames from my other stocks, by taking brood from those likely to

swarm, and introduced a very prolific queen. On June 16th, I found queen cells nearly ready to hatch, which I removed. On June 23, I again examined the brood nest in the same hive, which was arranged with two entrances, one at each end, and found queen cells capped but no queen was to be found. The young queen became fertile, and took charge of the brood department. On August 9th, I examined the entire hive, and found to my surprise, that the old queen had removed to the other end of the hive and was mistress of an independent colony while her daughter occupied the old brood nest. They remained in that condition until in the latter part of September, when I separated them by a division board.

I now have a colony, situated at some distance from my apiary in which there has been two queens since about the 20th of July last. The mother is purely fertilized while the daughter has mated with a black drone. The larger portion of the stock is now hybrid, yet there are some young bees which I am satisfied are the progeny of the old queen. On examination last Monday I found both queens on one card, both apparently engaged in laying eggs, but the older one much less active than her daughter. If she is there when next I visit the vicinity, I will remove her and introduce her to a new colony, with a view of testing her ability as an egg layer. She is only three years old, but was crippled in her wings, by the bees when introduced to her present home; since which time, I have prevented her swarming by dividing, except in one instance, in 1874, when she was returned to the hive, after a vain effort to go with her swarm.

There will be no surplus honey in this locality this year. My hives are at this date, Sept. 17, crowded with brood and very populous and well supplied with honey in brood department, and if weather is favorable I may be compelled to extract some from the center of the hives as the queens become crowded out of laying room. SUCCESS TO THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. J. E. R.

Lima, Ohio.

Burying Bees.

As there seems to be such varied success in wintering bees by burying them, I will endeavor to give my experience. Before I commenced bee-keeping in movable-comb hives, I was very much interested in the business by reading the *Bee Keeper's Journal* and the *Text Book*, and thought I had learned enough from them to make me a successful bee-keeper; but I soon found that I was mistaken; that I would have to learn more from actual ex-

perience than I had ever learned by reading, if I ever became a successful apiarist.

One fall I had thirty stocks of black bees, and not having a cellar to winter them in, I concluded to bury them, as I had read considerable in favor of it. I dug my pits long enough to hold from three or four to ten stocks each, and wide and deep enough to pack under and around and between them with corn stalks, and over them with straw, and then have the tops of them just below the surface of the ground. I then covered them with six or eight inches of earth, as near as I could guess. My hives were of various kinds—movable-comb and some box hives—in most of which I had made large openings in the tops for obtaining box honey. The box hives I placed in an upright position, except one or two that I laid on the side.

The movable-comb hives I placed in an upright position with the caps off, and put the straw on the frames. Before I put them in the pits I depopulated seventeen (17) of them, according to Mr. Hosmer's plan. I buried the thirty stocks with the full expectation that I would take out thirty all right in the spring; but during the winter I became somewhat uneasy about them—perhaps occasioned by something I had read—and wrote to Mr. Hosmer and told him how I had managed my bees, and asked him what he thought about them. In reply he said, They are, in my opinion, all right. I then rested easy about them until I took them out in March, when, to my sad disappointment, I found seven stocks dead; the other twenty-three varied from a handful of live bees to a full stock in good condition. Of the seven that were dead, some of them were very wet, while others were dry as dust. The stocks that were depopulated came through by far the best, on an average, though one box hive lying on its side, came through best of all, and it was the only one that I considered in first-class condition. Quite a number of them that were not depopulated were nearly destroyed by the moth-worms, it being warm enough in the pits to keep them breeding all winter.

Almost immediately after I got my bees out of the pits they began dwindling away, and I kept losing and doubling up stocks, until the honey season came on, when I had but five stocks left, all in the Star movable-comb hives—having transferred my box hives—but two of which got strong enough to swarm that summer. I then depended on natural swarming, which is a thing of the past with me now. I now have mostly Italians, and get large yields of honey and a good increase of stocks, and consider them far superior to the native bees.

S. K. MARSH.

Ionia co., Mich.

For the American Bee Journal, What is Honey?

In the November number of THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, page 262, Mr. Fotheringham differs with me in regard to honey. Our apparent difference of opinion is only a misconception of the sentence. I agree with him that honey is a saccharine matter to which is added certain substances, whose flavor indicates from what it is derived. Hence, we may say: All saccharine matter that has passed through the sac of the bee, is honey; but the quality is determined solely by the source from which it is derived. We have, therefore, white clover, white sage, fruit blossom, locust, buckwheat, catnip honey, etc. White clover honey, because the saccharine matter was collected by the bees from white clover blossoms, and so of the other varieties.

If we feed our bees with sugar syrup and they deposit it in their cells, that deposit might be called honey, also; because it passed through the honey sac of the bee, and had imparted to it the acid peculiar to honey. We should perhaps call it "cane sugar honey." But I claim that it is not as good as white clover honey. Were I to buy it, I should only pay the lowest figure for it.

We cultivate a taste for a certain kind of coffee or tea, and I suppose the same rule holds good in regard to honey. In our white clover country, for instance, I find that white clover honey is the article preferred, while I am told by friends that in Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, bass-wood honey has the best reputation there.

I think it was the Rev. L. L. Langstroth, our teacher and benefactor, who first advanced the idea that bee poison produced colic in some persons. This bee poison is seen on the stinger of every bee when irritated, and shines still, on the comb, after the stinger has disappeared. If introduced into our skin it produces swelling; and if eaten, although in a dry state and unobserved, it produces colic. This poison, drying up on the comb and adhering to it, is very likely the cause why persons are not so affected when eating machine-extracted honey. It is generally hard to persuade a person, once prejudiced to the use of honey, to give the matter a fair test. But in several instances where this matter came under my observation, I found it correct.

Many of my friends, when offering honey, will assure me that their honey was well ripened and capped before extracted. To all such I say, that when I buy their honey, it matters not whether it was capped or ripened before extracted or not. It is of much more importance to know that the honey is clover, buckwheat or bass-wood honey, or whatever else it

may be. To keep each kind by itself, is the principal thing in my estimation, and this cannot generally be done by waiting until the honey is capped. Ripening, as Novice calls it, is better done in an open vessel than in the bee hive.

Cincinnati, Ohio. CHAS. F. MUTH.

For the American Bee Journal.
Comb Foundations.

THOS. G. NEWMAN:—On page 261 of this month's Journal appears a communication signed "B. Lunderer." In reply to which I send you a letter giving the experience of a bee keeper. I have other letters agreeing exactly with Mr. Gardner and in direct contradiction to your correspondent's experience. JOHN LONG.

MR. LONG:—Since writing you, we have had a good yield of honey from the *Aster*, and I have given your foundations a trial in some of my strongest colonies, and although bees at this season of the year are not disposed to build comb, nor even to lengthening out partially-built ones, owing, I suppose, to the cool nights, yet I find that they have built out the cells on the foundations to nearly the full length, and have also in several instances extended the comb to near the bottom bar of the frame, *without one drone cell*. This of itself is one great advantage, as a great many colonies are prone to build drone comb at all seasons of the year, and thus ruin the stock, as they soon have too few workers to store more than the drones will consume.

J. R. GARDNER.

Christiansburg, Va., Oct. 14, 1875.

Voices from among the Hives.

WARREN Co., OHIO.—Nov. 12, 1875.—"I have 140 stands of Italian bees. Have kept bees for 50 years. I am well pleased with the JOURNAL and could not well do without it." JEREMIAH WOOD.

BUTLER Co., IOWA.—"I have done well with my bees. I wintered ten swarms; they came out well and increased to twenty-two; I have taken from them 350 lbs of extracted honey."

E. EIKENBERRY.

LA PORTE Co., UTAH.—Oct. 29, 1875.—"Three years ago I started with one colony of Italians, and divided twice the first year, once the second, and was left with one colony every spring. I doubled my hive this year, and took but two cards of honey from the two hives, so as not to rob them. They have increased their number four times, at least, and the hives are full of honey and brood."

MRS. H. MADSEN.

VERONA, LEE Co., MISS.—Nov. 6, 1875.—"I see in last number of BEE JOURNAL, that W. J. Andrews sent \$1.00 to Adair and cannot hear from him. In April 1874, I sent him \$7.50 by registered letter. I got his return receipt for the letter. I have written to him repeatedly since, and have never heard from him since."

T. W. JOHNSON.

SANTA ROSA, CAL.—Oct. 31, 1875.—"I was glad to see the report of P. H. Bohart. I sold him one-half of my bees before leaving Mo. There are but few bees kept in this county, and I think I shall return to Mo., in the spring. If any one has a good home in the States, he should remain there." JOHN SHEERER.

KAUFFMAN Co., TEXAS.—Nov. 15, 1875.—"I had poor success this year, did not average one swarm to the hive, and only about 15 lbs of honey. Honey locust, wild plum, and horse mint are the three best honey plants here. The first two bloom in early spring, and last about three weeks—the other in summer when other flowers are scarce, and continue about six weeks." A. H. R. BRYANT.

CEDAR Co., MO.—Oct. 30, 1875.—"Last spring I commenced with two Italian colonies, bought from E. Liston, Virgil City, and nine others in box and log gums. I transferred the nine with success, and increased to twenty-five—three natural and eleven artificial swarms. I extracted 2,000 lbs. Having purchased five more colonies, I have now thirty, all in good condition." J. F. LYNN.

LEBANON, IND.—Nov. 10, 1875.—"The friend of bee-keepers for this month, has arrived. I find its pages full of valuable information both for novices and veterans in apiculture. I commenced bee-keeping in the season of 1871. The first year I had one colony affected with dysentery. The next year I increased to 14 and lost all but one in wintering. In 1873 I increased that one to nine and wintered all safely. In 1874, I increased to 16, and lost all but two with dysentery. This spring I increased to three, but can report no success till Aug. 15th. Take all the time, I have had about enough surplus to keep even with expenses."

M. L. HOLLINGSWORTH.

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.—Nov. 1, 1875.—"I put nine stands of bees in the cellar in the fall of 1874; three died before spring; four more before flowers came. I bought two more in spring and one of those died, leaving three when flowers came, with plenty of comb and considerable honey, all the stands leaving some honey. I divided the three till I have eleven, using the old comb and honey. This fall I have fed the eleven, 100 lbs coffee A sugar, and think they are strong enough in bees and stores to winter. I

have watched our groceries for box or extracted honey and have talked with many of the bee-keepers of this county, and I don't believe it will average one pound of surplus honey to the stand, take the county through—the bee business certainly has not been encouraging to beginners, here.”

O. B. BARROWS.

NEWBURG, N. Y.—Nov. 17, 1875.—“One year ago last Spring I commenced to keep bees. Bought two box hives with black bees; one a good one, in an old rickety box hive, having plenty of bees and white comb, the other almost worthless: they both swarmed. One made 25 lbs of box honey, the other about 12 lbs. During the summer I received 18 hives on shares, in all kinds of hives. Seven were Italians, the rest hybrids and blacks. I put them all in cellar but two, on December 1st. Took them out April 1st. All wintered first-rate and it seemed as though they had not consumed 10 lbs each. I cleaned out each hive as I set them out, before they got warmed up, and had no trouble in doing it. I fed some rye flour, but they would not take much of it; I did not feed any honey or syrup. I lost five hives during April and May.

“The two wintered out-of-doors was so large I could not get them into the cellar; one of these the mice destroyed, the other came out first-rate though it has not swarmed or made a pound of surplus honey. They were well prepared for winter, by opening the holes on top and putting a stick across; over these I put a thick carpet, on the carpet was six inches or more of waste hair that I got from the Brush Factory, and over all, thick paper well pressed down. Hair is a much better thing than husks or bran, as it is always dry and retains the heat. Those that wish to winter out-of-doors should try it; they would never use anything that retains moisture again.

“My bees commenced to swarm June 14th, not one-half of them have swarmed. I have now 24 good, large swarms in good shape for winter; made one artificial swarm and one nucleus. One of black bees, in my new kind of hive, has made about 70 lbs of box honey; one Italian, in Langstroth hive, about 60 lbs, and one 40 lbs, and so on down to nothing; some neither swarmed or made a pound of honey. I had, on June 1st, 17 hives and one of them queenless; I gave them brood twice and saved them. I have about 320 lbs from all together in four lb boxes, which I sell at 30 cents per lb, and all is sold but 28 lbs, and that will soon be. I have a Novice Extractor, but have not used it yet and do not think I will much, as box honey sells much the best.

“The principal source of honey in this section, is apple blossoms, locust and white clover. We have no bass-wood and only a few tulip trees, about one mile off.

“Last winter killed off about all in this section. One man had 40 hives, wintered on their summer stands, and lost every one; and others lost nearly all. These people usually get a few pounds of mused honey, as I call it, by killing their bees in the fall, and they hardly believe it when I tell them I got 70 lbs in boxes from one hive, in as poor a season as this.

“I think you have struck the key note, when you requested bee-keepers to report the honey-producing plants, etc. It is a great pleasure to read how others have done, even if we cannot do as well ourselves.”

M. D. DuBois.

HENDERSON CO., N. C.—Nov. 9, 1875.—“Bees commenced to gather pollen Feb. 26th, from the *alder*; the fruit trees bloomed out early, but were all killed. We had a late, cold, backward spring and large numbers of hives that went safe through the winter, died before they could get honey to save them. My first swarm was on the 22nd of April, which swarm, gave me 64 lbs of surplus honey in the comb and filled a Quinby hive. I furnished them three sheets of comb; the hive they came out of gave me four natural swarms, and they are all in a good condition to go through the winter. That hive and its increase gave me 90 lbs of honey, and four good hives. I had under my charge 25 hives of bees, most of them weak, some of them (four hives) had just built up strong enough to go through the winter. Six I had to unite with others. Seven swarms went to the woods; six of them were two miles from me; I now have 40 hives in good condition to go through the winter. We had a killing frost on the 18th of May that killed most of the tulip blooms, black gum and wild cherry.

“The three best honey-producing trees are the tulip tree, red sumac and sourwood. The tulip commences to bloom about May 18th, and continues three weeks; the red sumac commences the last days of June or first of July, and about the time it is in full bloom the sourwood commences; the sumac is in bloom about 10 days and the honey is so plenty on them that it looks like a small swarm of bees settled on it.

“The sourwood commenced to bloom this year July 3d, and lasted 26 days, from which we always get most of our surplus honey. These trees grow readily from seed, or by transplanting; the golden rods and asters have done better this fall than I ever knew them to do before. On the 23d of September, the bees for one hour and a half brought in honey far ahead of anything I ever saw before, it was like a swarm returning. We had a killing frost on the 25th of Sept.; bees carried in the last pollen on Oct. 23d.”

ROBERT T. JONES.

American Bee Journal.

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